



U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/776,858
Amendment filed September 14, 2004
Reply to OA dated June 22, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the subtitle at page 1, line 4 with the following new subtitle.

[[FIELD OF THE INVENTION]] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the subtitle at page 1, line 14 with the following new subtitle.

[[BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION]] DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

Please replace the paragraph from page 1, line 15 to page 2, line 7 with the following amended paragraph.

In recent years, along with the ever-increasing development and use of the Internet, the WEB transaction using the WWW(World Wide Web) on the Internet has come to be widely utilized. In the WEB transaction, electronic trading such as WEB shopping is carried out through a user's personal computer and various kinds of information and advertisements have been ~~given~~ provided through the WEB. The WEB page used here is updated on demand. Here, in order to reduce face-to-face transactions, banks and credit companies have been introducing automatic transaction devices (automatic machines) which automatically execute predetermined normal transactions such as cash transaction, remittance, checking of the balance, etc. However, in conventional automatic transaction devices, although they can execute predetermined normal transactions, they fail to execute the WEB transaction which can deal with new trading while updating information on demand, and there have been increasing demands for methods for solving this problem effectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 8 with the following amended paragraph.

In the conventional WEB transaction, first, the URL (User Resource Locator) to be accessed is specified, and an access is made to the URL sight. Then, the user can carry out transactions by inputting the credit card number, etc., through the keyboard and making communications. The records of these transactions are not officially stored. In contrast, in a conventional automatic transaction device, for example, based upon a plurality of transaction processing state tables that are classified into types of respective functions in the automatic transaction device, a transaction control means executes controlling operations of predetermined normal transactions such as cash transaction, remittance, checking of the balance, etc. Each of these processing state tables is constituted by 8 parameters (state parameters), each having 3 bytes, and each transaction processing is defined by these state parameters.

Please replace the paragraph from page 2, line 24 to page 3, line 13 with the following amended paragraph.

However, in the above-mentioned conventional automatic transaction device, mainly because a processing state for the WEB transaction, which forms a long state including the specification of a URL, is not included in the state parameter of 8 x 3 bytes of the processing state table, the processing state table for the WEB transaction has not been defined, and no control means is provided for controlling the WEB transaction[[: consequently]]. Consequently, the conventional automatic transaction device has failed to execute the WEB transaction which can deal with new

trading while updating information on demand, and can only execute predetermined normal transactions. Moreover, ~~since~~ because one transaction control means controls all the transactions, the addition of a new transaction function ~~gives~~ provides effects on the existing transaction controlling processes, resulting in problems of time-consuming tasks and high costs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14 with the following amended paragraph.

In the conventional WEB transaction, after accessing a URL sight through a personal computer and making a WEB transaction, the user has to input user information such as a credit card number through the keyboard, and the record of the transaction is not officially stored[[: this]]. This results in problems of time-consuming tasks and degradation in reliability of the transaction.

Please replace the paragraph from page 4, line 17 to page 5, line 4 with the following amended paragraph.

In this case, the automatic transaction device is a so-called automatic machine which executes an automatic transaction with a user (customer) while virtually communicating with the user, such as an ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) and a CD (Cash Dispenser), in banks and credit companies. Moreover, the normal transactions refer to predetermined transactions such as a cash transaction, remittance, checking of the balance, etc., which have been carried out by conventional automatic transaction devices. In these normal transactions, the transaction is carried out by making [[a]]

contact with a normal transaction-use host such as a main frame through a dedicated line or a public line, without using the Internet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 16 with the following amended paragraph.

In accordance with this invention, the WEB transaction processing means (WEB transaction control section 303) controls the WEB transaction based upon at least one WEB transaction-use processing state table (w state) used for the WEB transaction. Thus, it is possible to execute not only normal transactions, but also WEB transactions which can deal with new trading while updating information on demand, without ~~giving~~ providing adverse effects on the control process for the normal transactions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9 with the following amended paragraph.

Here, "the recording medium that is read by a computer" includes "portable physical media" including magnetic disks such as floppy disks, semiconductor memories such as ROMs, EPROMs, EEPROMs and flash ROMs (including those built in cartridges, PC cards, etc.), optical disks such as CD-ROMs and DVDs and magneto-optical disks such as MOs and "fixed physical media" including ROMs, RAMs, hard disks, etc., that are built in various computer systems.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 13 with the following amended paragraph.

FIG. 2 is a drawing that shows a schematic ~~hard-ware~~ hardware construction of the automatic machine shown in FIG. 1.

Please amend the subtitle at page 9, line 8 as follows:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED[[EMBODIMENTS]] EMBODIMENT

Please replace the paragraph from page 9, line 15 to page 10, line 5 with the following amended paragraph.

Fig. 1 is a drawing that schematically shows the arrangement of a transaction system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. This transaction system is provided with at least one automatic machine 101, a normal transaction-use host (main frame) 102 which holds bank account information, etc., of users (customers), and communicates with the automatic machine 101 through a dedicated line or a public line at the time of a normal transaction, and a WEB server 103 which communicates with the automatic machine 101 through the Internet at the time of a WEB transaction. In addition to the communications with the automatic machine 101 at the time of a normal transaction, the normal transaction-use host 102 also transmits a transaction processing state table (hereinafter, referred to as state table), which will be described later, to the automatic machine 101 so as to make a new setting or updating, regularly or in a predetermined cycle.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 6 with the following amended paragraph.

In addition to communications with the automatic machine 101 at the time of a WEB transaction, the WEB server 103 also transmits a state table to the automatic machine 101 so as to make a new setting or updating regularly or in a predetermined cycle. Moreover, the normal transaction-use host 102 and the WEB server 103 communicate with each other at the time of a WEB transaction so as to carry out processes such as confirmation of the balance, transfer processes and settlement of accounts. Here, with respect to the communication between the automatic machine 101 and the WEB server 103, the automatic machine 101 and the WEB server 103 may be connected by LAN (Local Area Network) so that the communication is carried out through the Intranet within the LAN (Local Area Network) without using the Internet, or the automatic machine 101 may be allowed to remote-access the WEB server 103 through a public line.

Please replace the paragraph from page 11, line 20 to page 12, line 6 with the following amended paragraph.

The ROM 201 and HDD 202 store programs such as boot programs and control programs. The kinds of the ROM 201 and HDD 202 are not particularly limited, and other recording media may be used in place of the ROM 201 and HDD 202. The CPU 203 controls the respective parts of the automatic machine 101 based upon the programs stored in the ROM 201 and the HDD 202. The RAM 204 is used as a work area, etc., of the CPU 203. The CD-ROM drive 205 is used, for example, at the time of activation of the system, at the time of installing a control program from a

CD-ROM to the HDD 202, and other occasions. Instead of the CD-ROM drive 205, other portable recording media, such as a DVD drive, may be used.

Please replace the paragraph from page 15, line 18 to page 16, line 5 with the following amended paragraph.

The state type of the state w is "w", and is defined by "w" in the ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange). The "screen number" of entry 2 is to specify the screen displayed while accessing the WEB server 103, and is defined by a numeric value from 000 to 999. In the case when 000 is specified, the automatic machine 101 does not display anything. The "extension file number" of entry 3 is an extension file number by which URLs to which the automatic machine 101 navigates, URLs to which it navigates at the time of time-out or error, etc., are defined, and is defined by a numeric value from 000 to 999. The file name of the extension file starts with "URL", and to this is added the extension file number, and then is further added ". dat".

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 2 with the following amended paragraph.

Here, the WEB transaction control section 303 may read user information, such as a card number and bank balance, acquired by the normal transaction control section 302 during normal transactions, from the recording medium such as the RAM 203, and transmit the information to the WEB server 103. With respect to the card number, ~~since~~ because the normal transaction control section 302 has preliminarily read it through the card reader 206, the user need not input it through

the keyboard 209. The WEB server 103 selects users based upon the user information so that it can provide services suitable for the respective users. The state table acquiring section 304 of the automatic machine 101 acquires state tables from the normal transaction-use host 102, the WEB server 103 or another device through communication lines so that the state tables in the group of state tables 301 are set, supplemented or updated.

Please replace the paragraph from page 19, line 17 to page 20, line 7 with the following amended paragraph.

Here, the above-mentioned description has discussed the functional construction of the automatic machine 101; however, the respective constituent elements of the automatic machine 101 shown in FIG. 3 have been conceptually described based upon their functions, and are not necessarily arranged physically as illustrated in FIG. 3. For example, all or one portion of the processing functions possessed by the automatic machine 101 may be realized by the CPU 203 and programs interpreted and executed by the CPU 203. In other words, computer programs, which ~~give~~ provide instructions to the CPU 203 in cooperation with the OS (Operation System), etc., and ~~allows~~ allow the CPU 203 to execute various processes, are stored in the ROM 201 and HDD 202. Then, the CPU 203 executes various processes in accordance with these programs. Moreover, all or one portion of the processing functions possessed by the automatic machine 101 may be realized by hardware using wired logic.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 8 with the following amended paragraph.

In the above-mentioned construction, referring to the Figures, an explanation will be ~~given~~ provided of the operation of the present embodiment. FIG. 8 is a flow chart showing the sequence of transaction processes of an automatic machine 101 in accordance with the present embodiment. In the transaction processes, first, the normal transaction control section 302 executes a controlling operation so that a screen as shown FIG. 9 is displayed based upon state A, thereby waiting for a card insertion into the automatic machine 101 (S101). Upon insertion of a card, a screen as shown in FIG. 10 is displayed based upon state B, and an ID number from the user is inputted (S102).

Please replace the paragraph from page 21, line 22 to page 22, line 8 with the following amended paragraph.

Then, the card data (card number, etc.), language (language selected in the case when multi-languages are selectable), type of process (WEB shopping, issuance of movie free tickets, etc.), etc[[.]] that the normal transaction control section 302 has acquired are set in this WEB data server (S203). In this case, the user information such as bank balance information, acquired by the normal transaction control section 302 from the normal transaction-use host 102, may be set therein. Thus, the WEB server 103 can obtain detailed user information from the automatic machine 101 so that it is possible to provide detailed processes suitable for the respective users.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 9 with the following amended paragraph.

Next, the WEB transaction control section 303 requests the WEB data server to monitor the completion of the WEB transaction (S204), and makes a navigation to the URL specified by state w (specified by the extension file)(S205). Then, a WEB page as shown in FIG. 16 is displayed on the automatic machine 101 by files written in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language), etc., of the URL sight, and necessary data is acquired from the WEB data server (S206)[[; thus]]. Thus, the WEB transaction is executed.

Please replace the paragraph from page 22, line 18 to page 23, line 3 with the following amended paragraph.

In this WEB transaction, shopping, issuance of movie free tickets, etc., using the WWW are available. Moreover, a customer screen using motion pictures and natural scenery pictures can be realized. The maintenance for this customer screen can be carried out by the WEB server 103. Here, the WEB server 103 communicates with the normal transaction-use host 102 so as to call for additional communications required for the WEB transaction, or communicates with a business connection so as to ~~give~~ provide orders. Alternatively, it makes a judgment as to whether or not a ticket is available, or acquires an issue log of a ticket.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 4 with the following amended paragraph.

In this WEB transaction, ActiveX is used so as to operate devices peculiar to the automatic machine 101 (such as the card reader 206 and the sheet printer 208). This ActiveX is called for from JavaScript or VBScript within the HTML. When the user request for the completion or suspension of the WEB transaction, the WEB transaction control section 303 is informed of the completion of the WEB transaction (S207, S208)[[; thus]]. Thus, the WEB transaction control section completes the WEB-use process. Then, the normal transaction control section 302 again starts controlling processes so that the sequence proceeds to step S106 of FIG. 8.

Please replace the paragraph from page 23, line 15 to page 24, line 1 with the following amended paragraph.

As described above, in the present embodiment, the normal transaction control section 302 controls normal transactions based upon a processing state table (A state, etc.) used for normal transactions, while the WEB transaction control section 303, installed separately from the normal transaction control section 302, controls the WEB transaction based upon a processing state table (w state) used for WEB transactions[[; therefore]]. Therefore, it is possible to execute not only normal transactions, but also the WEB transaction which deals with new trading while updating information on demand, without causing any adverse effect on the control of the normal transactions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 2 with the following amended paragraph.

Moreover, ~~since~~ because the transaction is controlled by using state tables, the interface between the automatic machine 101 and the normal transaction-use host 102, as well as the interface between the automatic machine 101 and the WEB server 103, is unified so that it becomes easier to add automatic machines of other types and other makers. In other words, the interface related to the WEB transaction of the automatic machine 101 is standardized, thereby making it possible to accelerate the WEB transaction on the automatic machine 101, and also to expand the application of the automatic machine 101 as an information terminal. Moreover, ~~since~~ because the controls and operations related to the WEB transaction can be boxed up, the WEB transaction is expanded while reducing its influences on the normal transactions. In other words, it is possible to provide new services using the WEB, while maintaining inherent functions of the automatic machine.

Please replace the paragraph from page 24, line 18 to page 25, line 4 with the following amended paragraph.

Moreover, extension state tables, which can be user-customized, are downloaded regularly, or downloaded in response to a sudden event so that it becomes possible to readily meet the user's demands, and consequently to further expand the functions of the automatic machine 101 as an information terminal. Furthermore, information to be ~~given~~ provided to the automatic machine 101 can be updated on a real time basis so that the user can be informed of necessary information and encouraged to operate the system. It is also possible to properly deal with ~~alternation of the~~

providing of an alternate location of the WEB server and ~~alternation~~ providing of alternative the contents made by information/commodity providers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 5 with the following amended paragraph.

In other words, the WEB transaction control section 303 is incorporated into a conventional automatic machine so as to add extension w state to the group of state tables[[]; thus]]. Thus, the addition of the WEB transaction function is easily realized, thereby making it possible to accelerate and expand the services of the automatic machine 101 using the Internet. Moreover, ~~since~~ because electronic trading is executed by the automatic machine 101 capable of storing public data, it becomes possible to improve the reliability of electronic trading. Here, printing certifying each transaction may be given on the rear face of the receipt by using the receipt printer 208 in the automatic machine 101.

Please replace the paragraph from page 25, line 17 to page 26, line 2 with the following amended paragraph.

In addition, a computer program which realizes the transaction method in accordance with the present embodiment may be stored in portable recording media including magnetic disks such as floppy disks, semiconductor memories such as ROMs, EPROMs, EEPROMs and flash ROMs (including those built in cartridges, PC cards, etc.), optical disks such as CD-ROMs and DVDs and magneto-optical disks such as MOs, and the program recorded in these media may be installed in

fixed media including ROMs, RAMs, hard disks, etc., that are built in the automatic machines so as to provide the above-mentioned transaction functions to the automatic machines.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 3 with the following amended paragraph.

Moreover, this program may be transferred through a network, such as LAN, WAN, the Internet, etc., so that the transferred program is installed in a fixed recording medium in an automatic machine. Furthermore, the program is not limited to those singly formed, and may include those constituted in a dispersed manner as a plurality of modules and libraries and those which can achieve their function in cooperation with another program such as an OS.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 11 with the following amended paragraph.

As described above, in accordance with the present invention, the WEB transaction process means (WEB transaction control section 303) controls the WEB transaction based upon at least one WEB transaction-use processing state table (w state)[[; therefore]]. Therefore, it is possible to execute not only normal transactions, but also the WEB transaction which deals with new trading while updating information on demand, without causing any adverse effect on the control of the normal transactions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 20 with the following amended paragraph.

Although the present invention has been described with respect to a specific embodiment for a complete and clear disclosure, the appended claims are not to be thus limited but are to be construed as embodying all modifications and alternative constructions that may occur to one skilled in the art which fairly fall within the basic teaching herein set forth.